

## IL Checklist for Kids ages 16-18

### I. Independent Living Services

- Referral made to IL provider?
  - When and to whom (what agency)?
  - Who is the case manager/mentor?
- Has a life skills assessment been completed?
- Has an IL case planning meeting been held and if so, has the life skills assessment been incorporated into the case plan developed?
- What does the IL case plan cover (ie: housing, employment, education, self maintenance skills, etc...) and did the child have input?
- Is the independent living case plan being reviewed at least semi-annually?
- Has the STEPS meeting been scheduled? (This should occur one month after the child turns 17 and should include everyone who might be willing to assist the child in the transition to adulthood ie: family, extended family, mentors, social workers, GAL/CASA, other invested adults)
- Has a DFS Board Extension been requested? (This should occur by the time the child is 17 years nine months)
- Does the child have a driver's license?
  - Has the child taken driver's education?
  - What are the barriers and is there a plan to overcome them?
- Does the child have his or her social security card?
- What specific services will the IL provider be providing this child after age 18?

### II. Education

- Is child on grade level given age?
- Is high school diploma realistic verses GED or other educational alternative?
- Does the child have an IEP (Individual Education Plan)?
  - What is the basis for the plan?
  - When was it last updated?
  - When was child last evaluated?
  - Are current services appropriate (are they working)?
- Does the child have any interest in college or vocational school?
  - Has the child taken the PSAT or SAT?
  - Has the child investigated, visited, or applied to any schools and who is assisting with this?
  - Is the child aware of resources available in DE such as the SEEDS Program at Del. Tech, the ETV Fund (money can be used for tuition, housing, transportation if the youth is attending college or vocational school) or the Ivy Davis Scholarship?
    - Has the youth applied for any other academic scholarships?
- Does the youth have a copy of his or her school transcript?

### III. Training/Employment

- Has the child ever been employed? If not, what are the barriers?
  - Where? When? How long? Will the employer be a good reference in the future?
- Does the child have any special skills or interests and how are they being developed/built upon?
- Is volunteerism a means to seeking out future employment options?
- Is Job Corp a possibility?
- Job shadowing in a desired field?
- Summer internships?
- Has the child considered military service? Active duty or National Guard reserve work? (Criminal history can be overcome in some situations so don't be afraid to investigate)
- Has the child been engaged in any training programs in school or otherwise? If no, why not?
- Who is assisting the child in the job search and what has been done?
- Who will facilitate transportation to work once employment is secured? (Or does the child have a license and some way of providing transportation for himself?)

### IV. Housing

- Where does the child plan to live at age 18?
  - Is a DFS Board Extension appropriate? (DFS worker shall apply for one if the child so desires by the time the child is 17 years nine months)
  - Is a DFS Host Home agreement appropriate? (for college bound youth)
  - Has the youth's name been put on subsidized housing lists on both the state and local level?
  - Is a Transitional Housing Program appropriate/available?
    - West End (Lifelines) in Wilmington?
    - 801 (Dover)?
    - Murphy School (Dover)
  - Is return to biological family likely and if so, what if anything can we put in place to make that as safe a transition as possible? (Note that if reunification with a parent takes place prior to 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, IL services cease after 60 days).
- Has the youth been educated on the cost of living independently?
  - Does the youth have any money saved for housing? (There are a number of matching fund programs in the state to help youth save faster) Checking? Savings? DE Money School?
  - Are there any kinship or friendship sources of financial support or to act as roommates/stable housing options?
  - Is the youth familiar with local shelter options?

V. **Medical/Mental health**

- Make sure the youth gets all appointments scheduled and held before turning 18 including physical/medical, dental, vision and any specialty appointments that might be outstanding!
- Has the youth been educated about preventative, routine health care?
- Are the youth's medical records being compiled for the youth when he/she exits care?
- Has the youth been educated on violence prevention/awareness? (A/N/D/ & DV)
- Have all of the necessary referrals and paperwork been completed for a smooth transition to adult services?
  - Medicaid? (Application should be in process 6 months prior to 18<sup>th</sup> birthday).
  - Adult Mental Health or outpatient counseling?
  - Pediatrician to primary care physician?
  - Food stamps?
  - AFDC or other state support?
  - Referral to DDDS if child cannot take care of himself/herself due to physical or other developmental delays

VI. **Extended Jurisdiction** (To be considered close to 18<sup>th</sup> birthday)

- Are there any issues with adequacy of the IL services being offered? If so, consider Motion for Extended Jurisdiction.
- Make sure youth knows how to contact AGAL, DSCYF, IL worker after 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.